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FARM TELEPHONES

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Upward Trend in Costs of Farm Telephone Service Continues

Payments for local telephone service by U. S. farmers in July 1957 averaged \$3.85 per month as compared with \$3.66 a year earlier, according to an annual survey made by the Agricultural Estimates Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service. For both local and long distance service, the payments averaged \$5.82 per month, nearly 7 percent above the average of \$5.45 in July 1956. This increase in cost came about primarily by the increase and improvement in dial telephone service.

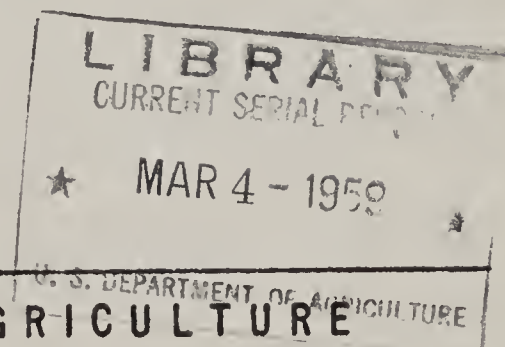
Increases in charges for local telephone service ranged from 11 cents in New England to 41 cents in the East South Central Region. The increase in the East South Central Region resulted partly from a decrease in the number of subscribers per line.

The variation in charges between regions is to a considerable extent a reflection of the variation in the type and quality of service farmers obtain.

Average Monthly Local Farm Telephone Bills,  
By Regions, July, 1947 - 56 <sup>1/</sup>

Region	1947-49 Average	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New England	3.17	3.91	4.11	4.23	4.35	4.60	4.71
Middle Atlantic	2.76	3.32	3.39	3.39	3.50	3.73	3.97
E.N. Central	2.22	2.97	3.23	3.32	3.41	3.54	3.68
W.N. Central	1.81	2.59	2.71	2.75	2.86	2.99	3.17
S. Atlantic	2.58	3.48	3.61	3.75	3.86	4.07	4.25
E.S. Central	2.50	3.18	3.23	3.42	3.50	3.83	4.24
W.S. Central	2.02	2.95	3.25	3.46	3.64	3.88	4.06
Mountain	2.65	3.43	3.55	3.74	3.91	4.14	4.29
Pacific	3.08	3.82	4.00	3.93	4.15	4.27	4.53
United States	2.29	3.06	3.24	3.33	3.46	3.66	3.85

<sup>1/</sup> The survey made in July and August requested data based on the last bill. This was generally a bill for a period ending in late June, July, or early August.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Crop Reporting Board

Washington, D. C.

About 63 percent of the farms in the U. S. with telephones were receiving dial service as of July 1, 1957, 8 percent above the previous year, primarily as a result of conversion from manual to dial type telephone service. The largest regional increase (10 percent) in dial service occurred in the West North Central Region.

Improvement in the quality of service continues in the form of reduction of the number of subscribers per line. The percent of farmers having private lines has increased over the previous years in most regions. In some areas where dial service has been instituted, the percentage of private lines has decreased during the year.

Type of Telephone Service Supplied Farms and Number of Parties on Lines  
By Regions, July 1957

Region	Type of Service			Parties on Lines			
	Dial	Battery	Magneto Crank	Private	2 to 4	5 to 8	9 or more
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. England	79	12	9	14	42	35	9
M. Atlantic	67	22	11	8	21	52	19
E.N. Central	54	17	29	2	13	48	37
W.N. Central	43	12	45	3	13	48	36
S. Atlantic	80	13	7	4	30	50	16
E.S. Central	70	20	10	9	27	58	6
W.S. Central	61	21	18	7	27	56	10
Mountain	63	29	8	4	25	48	23
Pacific	91	6	3	12	31	36	21
United States	61	16	23	6	21	48	25